

the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

Spring/Summer 2016

Signing of LB 960 Marks Historic Moment in Nebraska Transportation

April 18, 2016 will go down in the record books as a turning point for transportation in Nebraska. Governor Pete Ricketts signed LB 960, the Transportation Innovation Act (TIA), creating a \$450 million transportation infrastructure bank to fund new roads and bridges in Nebraska.



Photos by Dan Luedert

Members of the Nebraska State Legislature and NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis look on during Governor Ricketts' signing of LB 960.

the Roadrunner

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Nebraska Department of Roads

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Governor Pete Ricketts

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Deputy DirectorMoe Jamshidi
Deputy DirectorKhalil Jaber
Deputy Director

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Business Technology Support.....Bill Wehling
CommunicationVicki Kramer
ConstructionJames Knott
ControllerMarilyn Hayes
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Human Resources.....Sue Larson
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Rail & Public TransportationRyan Huff
Right-of-WayRobert Frickel
Roadway Design.....Mike Owen
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District 3Kevin Domogalla
District 4Wesley Wahlgren
District 5Doug Hoevet
District 6Gary Thayer
District 7Kurt Vosburg
District 8Mark Kovar

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The information in this newsletter is contributed by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



Historic Signing of Transportation Innovation Act

Funded with \$50 million from the state's cash reserve and more than \$400 million of state motor fuel tax generated over the next 17 years, the TIA measure will fund accelerated expressway construction, county bridge repairs and investments in infrastructure projects that will help Grow Nebraska.

"I appreciate the efforts of NDOR employees and our transportation partners for all the work they put into this initiative," said NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis. "The infrastructure bank will help us to make progress towards a plan that dates back to 1988 - creating a network of highways to boost the economy, ease commutes and promote public safety."



Governor Pete Ricketts, State Senator Heath Mello, NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis, State Senators Al Davis and Kate Bolz after signing of TIA.

Specifically, TIA includes \$450 million in targeted infrastructure funding in three key areas:

- The Accelerated State Highway Capital Improvement Program focuses on fast-tracking completion of Nebraska's 600-mile expressway system by 2033. A total of 132 expressway miles remained unfunded until the TIA bill was passed, including stretches of U.S. Highway 275 between Omaha and Norfolk, U.S. Highways 75/34 between Omaha and Nebraska City, and U.S. Highway 77 between Wahoo and Fremont.
- The County Bridge Match Program allocates up to \$40 million for repairs to bridges maintained by county governments. The program promotes innovative solutions to help repair or replace critical bridges on county road systems. NDOR has started the process of developing the program in consultation with a working group, which will meet throughout the summer and fall to further define the program.
- The Economic Opportunity Program includes up to \$20 million for projects that connect new and expanding businesses to our infrastructure system. NDOR will work with statewide associations representing municipal and county officials, as well as the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to develop the program and will publish program details by December 2016.

The legislation also has an entrepreneurial component, as it authorizes the use of some alternative contracting methods. This includes the design-build process, which will allow the state's largest and most complex capital improvement projects to be completed 2-4 years sooner than traditional methods.

According to Schneweis, "The passage of this legislation is just a first step - now the hard work begins as we set out on implementation. I encourage our employees and stakeholders to stay engaged throughout the year as the TIA program is developed." Public updates can be found at <http://roads.nebraska.gov/projects/tia/> ♦

Exciting Times for Transportation...



Kyle Schneweis

We have hit the ground running in 2016. We held public meetings across the state, met with our Innovation Task Force again, reached out to thousands of stakeholders, joined with Governor Ricketts and Senators to talk about ways to accelerate transportation investments, and hosted

the President of the United States, all while battling the snow. To top it off, on April 18, Governor Ricketts signed the Transportation Innovation Act (TIA), making history for transportation in Nebraska. A great deal of innovation has been packed into a short amount of time, and we are not letting up.

First and foremost, I want to recognize our road crews. As they always have, the men and women of NDOR wake up early, stay out late, and keep our roads and bridges clear and safe during the harshest of weather. This past winter, crews kept our first promise to Nebraska – to keep the roads and highways as safe as possible. It is not an easy task, but everyday someone stops me to say what a good job you do clearing our roads. Alongside our local partners, your hard work saves lives. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Historic TIA

Additionally, the TIA legislation was a historic undertaking for NDOR and would not be a reality without the hard work of many. This innovative “tool” sets aside \$450 million towards accelerated expressway construction, county bridge repairs and investments in infrastructure projects that will help Grow Nebraska. This is a major game-changer for transportation in Nebraska, and I appreciate the efforts of our NDOR employees, transportation partners and stakeholders who helped make it possible. Now we must focus on delivery – our public engagement team will be out in July to hear from stakeholders and our Bridge Match and Economic Outreach working groups are heavy into the process of creating program criteria.

NDOR’s programming, planning, communications and district teams continue to build a robust public involvement program. This team is building upon its first round of Build Nebraska Act (BNA) public meetings to evaluate projects for both the BNA and

“I appreciate the efforts of our NDOR employees, transportation partners and stakeholders.”

TIA funding. The team has been focused on the guiding principles of being *engaging, entrepreneurial and empowering*, and continues to encourage and challenge NDOR leadership to create and embrace a new and highly collaborative approach that reaches more stakeholders and engages them in ways which will help us make decisions that are better informed and represent the community’s needs and wants.

Positive Response

A key component to BNA, TIA and other engagement platforms is asking Nebraskans to consider economic impact when thinking about capital improvement project prioritization. So far the response has been overwhelmingly supportive. We have also received great feedback from the public on how to make those evaluations in ways that fit Nebraska and take urban and rural differences into account. Hundreds of people have shared their stories and participated in the public involvement process in person or online. I continue to hear from stakeholders across the state how much they appreciate our efforts to include them early in this process. I am committed to continuing this effort and congratulate all who have been involved and challenge those who want to know more to follow the process this summer as we name capital improvement projects for both BNA and TIA.

While we have been collecting input from residents across the state, we have also been listening to our Innovation Task Force, Highway Commission members and working groups. These groups will be vital to NDOR’s efforts as we dig into longer term challenges facing transportation in Nebraska, including an aging population and a diversifying economy. We get better when we listen and learn from different perspectives, so I look forward to the discussions and appreciate their willingness to bring fresh ideas to difficult issues.

These are exciting times for transportation in Nebraska! I remember when I arrived in Nebraska. Everyone told me NDOR was full of dedicated and hardworking employees. I couldn’t be happier that great tradition continues, as the last few months have demonstrated. I look forward to more achievements through the rest of 2016. ♦

Owen New Roadway Design Engineer

Mike Owen is the new Roadway Design Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads. Owen, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Jim Knott, who served in that capacity for 11 years until he was named the new Construction Engineer after the retirement of Claude Oie.

For 33 years, Owen has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including six years as Planning & Project Development Engineer, four years in District 3 at Norfolk, four years in Right-of-Way Design and 18 years in Roadway Design, serving as a Designer, Unit Leader and Assistant Design Engineer. He has been associated with many noteworthy highway projects,



Mike Owen

including the West Dodge Road Expressway, I-80 reconstruction in Omaha, the Scottsbluff-Gering Bypass and the Yankton Bridge.

Born and raised in Lincoln, Owen graduated from Lincoln East High School. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from

UNL in 1983, Owen began his career at NDOR.

Owen said he enjoys many things about his work at NDOR, especially the people and the relationships that he has built. He also likes visiting the field and seeing firsthand the projects under construction, making note of improvements for future projects. With this direct involvement, he feels connected to the finished highway.

In discussing goals he would like to achieve in his new position, Owen said, "Jim Knott has been a great leader and has had many successes that I want to continue. He has made project delivery a priority and I will also make it a priority. Another goal will be to challenge Roadway Design's many young engineers in new and exciting ways and develop them into our future leaders."

Regarding his management philosophy, Owen noted, "My approach is to find out how people can best contribute to helping us achieve our goals and find ways to make them successful."

Mike and his wife, Carole, have two children, Dan (and wife Kinsley) and Emily. In his spare time, Mike enjoys golfing, gardening and attending most of the Kansas City Chiefs home football games. ♦

Knott Named New Construction Engineer

Jim Knott is the new Construction Division Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads. Knott, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Claude Oie, who retired March 4, 2016, with 44 years of service.

For 35 years Knott has worked at the NDOR in a variety of capacities, including serving as Roadway Design Engineer in Lincoln for the past 11 years. Born in Kittery, Maine, Knott lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Dover, Delaware; and Montgomery, Alabama before his family moved to Lincoln in 1971, where he graduated from Lincoln East High School. Knott attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating in December 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He worked for three months in NDOR's Traffic Engineering Division while attending UNL.



Jim Knott

From 1981 to 1986, Knott worked for District 1, serving as an Engineer I, II and III. In 1986 he was selected as the District Construction Engineer in North Platte; in 1995 he was promoted to District 7 Engineer in McCook; and in 2004 was selected to be the Roadway Design Engineer.

During his time as Roadway Design Engineer, and throughout his career, Knott said his greatest accomplishment was seeing the people he coached and mentored accomplish great things in their private and professional lives. He said that will continue to be his primary goal.

Knott said he will provide the leadership and resources to help the Construction Division attain even higher levels of achievement in the performance of NDOR's mission and in the pursuit of its goals. In addition, Knott said he plans to develop and

enhance partnerships with the Associated General Contractors, other NDOR divisions, agencies and private concerns.

Knott said he believes leadership is first and foremost an act of service: service to the individual, service to the division and service to the agency. "I believe that even given the best equipment in the world, no one can accomplish the goals or mission of an agency like ours without building a solid team of dedicated employees. I intend to continue to build upon the foundation of performance that is already in place, and together with the employees of the Construction Division, strive for even greater accomplishments."

Knott was married for 23 years to his wife, Arlene, who passed away in 2003. He has been married to Dawn, also an NDOR engineer in the Planning & Project Development Division, since 2007, and together they have six children and two grandchildren. ♦

Kramer New Communication Manager

Vicki Kramer is the new Communication Division Manager for the Nebraska Department of Roads. She succeeds Mary Jo Oie, who retired in December with 30 years of service.

Raised in Yutan, Nebraska, Kramer graduated from Yutan High School. She earned Bachelor of Science degrees in both Journalism and Political Science from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2008 and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2015.

Kramer began her career in 2007 as Assistant Producer for NTV KHGI-TV in Axtell. She also held positions as Central Nebraska Office Manager for U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel in Kearney; Project Coordinator for Military and Veteran Affairs for U.S. Senator Mike Johanns in Omaha; and Director of Outreach and Special Projects for U.S. Senator Deb Fischer in Omaha.

Kramer is a Captain in the Nebraska National Guard, having



Vicki Kramer

served since 2009, and currently serves as the senior personnel officer for the 1-134th Cavalry Squadron. She recently held the full-time position of Government Relations Officer, where she served as a senior policy advisor to the Adjutant General on state and federal legislative issues.

Kramer said she has enjoyed traveling the state, getting to know the people of Nebraska, and feels fortunate to have been in positions over the last eight years where she was able to learn from other people and focus on the needs of Nebraskans. She looks forward to doing the same as she meets everyone at NDOR. "As Communication Division Manager, it is vital that I understand the organization, its people and what is important to them; please stop by and introduce yourself and tell me a bit about you and your position."

As far as future goals, Kramer said, "I am really looking forward to working with our NDOR communications team to focus on ways we can engage NDOR stakeholders and customers. Since every

Nebraskan is an NDOR customer, I feel it is important to concentrate on how we communicate with users and how we empower our districts to engage at the local level."

Regarding her management approach, Kramer stated that she shares NDOR Director Kyle Schneeweis' passion for empowerment and engagement, adding, "I feel that when people are empowered and passionate about what they are working towards or accomplishing, they will do their best work. In the Communications and Legislative fields, relationships are everything and that is where engagement comes in. I am looking forward to getting out with our public involvement team to hear from Nebraskans about the projects and infrastructure that is important to them."

Vicki's husband, Josh, is from Grand Island and they both live in Omaha. They enjoy traveling and outdoor activities. They are excited to be welcoming a new addition to their family in August. Both of their parents live in Nebraska and Vicki has one brother who is Active Duty Army, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. ♦

Neemann New Planning & Project Development Engineer

Brandie Neemann is the new Planning & Project Development Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Neemann, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Mike Owen, who served in that capacity for six years until he was named the new Roadway Design Engineer after Jim Knott accepted the post as Construction Engineer upon the retirement of Claude Oie.



Brandie Neemann

Born and raised in Lincoln, Neemann graduated from Southeast High School and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at UNL. She began her career at NDOR in 1998 as a work-study student in Lincoln, assisting the (then) Project Development

Division in Location Studies before moving on to assist in both the Roadway Design and Bridge

Divisions prior to graduation. After graduating from UNL in 2001, Neemann moved back to Roadway Design as a Consultant Coordinator, later moving to the Expressway Design Section, then to the Interstate Design Section. She also worked briefly in the Project Scheduling & Program Management Division. In 2008, her career came full circle when she returned as Unit Head for the Project Scoping Unit in the Planning & Project Development Division, where she had begun as a student. In 2012, she became the Section Head

Neemann (cont'd.)

for the Project Scoping & Utilities Section before being promoted to her current position.

Neemann said she has most enjoyed the relationships she has been able to develop with people throughout the state, noting, "These are the people I've grown to trust and rely upon, and who have helped guide me along the path that I have taken." She also enjoyed the time spent designing highway improvement projects. "It's hard to replicate the pride and sense of accomplishment from developing and signing a set of plans, and then seeing what was once lines on paper come to life."

Another source of satisfaction involved being part of several initiatives that have helped shape NDOR business practices, including introducing new project scheduling software, new project initiation processes, working on strategic goals and developing project efficiencies.

"Most recently, I've been able to collaborate with a team from NDOR, the private sector, and other state agencies (to name a few), as NDOR moves forward with a new process to prioritize our capital improvement projects."

In discussing goals she would like to achieve, Neemann said, "I'm very fortunate to be part of a division that has incredible leadership at all levels, and I'd like to build upon this solid foundation in the future. The industry is changing, and we need to position ourselves to change with it. This means working with the division to continue to be agile and strategic with our decisions. It's also important that I help this division and NDOR establish trust and credibility with our peers, resource agencies and the public."

Regarding her management approach, Neemann noted, "I believe that management is just a piece of

leadership, and my leadership philosophy is rooted in developing relationships. Because of that, I think it's important to find ways to inspire people to meet challenges, and then either celebrate those successes with them or help them navigate when something doesn't go according to plan. I want to create loyalty, build trust and promote honesty and fairness. It's important that I listen carefully, communicate often and empower people to make their own decisions. Ultimately, this creates a culture of success and accountability."

Brandie and her husband, Matt, the Traffic Control Engineer in Traffic Engineering Division, have two children, Claire, who is 14 and Jack, who is 10. In their spare time, her family enjoys children's school and sports activities, spending time with family and friends, traveling to their favorite vacation destinations, and attending Husker men's basketball games. ♦

Gerdes Appointed to State Hwy. Commission

Mary K. Gerdes, of Johnson, Nebraska, was recently appointed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts to serve as District 1 Commissioner on the Nebraska State Highway Commission. District 1 includes Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Johnson, Otoe, Cass, Gage, Lancaster, Saunders, Butler, Seward, Saline and Jefferson counties. Gerdes will complete the term of Rodney Vandenberg, who passed away in May 2015 after serving on the Commission since 2008. The term runs through the fall of 2017.

Gerdes is a graduate of Johnson High School and attended Peru State College. She and her husband, Dan, have been in the agriculture industry since 1959. Together, they own and operate an 800-acre grain farm in Southeast

Nebraska. Until retiring from the pork business in 2006, they also owned and operated a 2,400 sow pork production operation.

In addition to her business interests, Gerdes is active in community, church and agriculture organizations. She is a member of Nebraska Ag Builders and served on the Board of Directors from 2001 to 2006. Gerdes was appointed to the State Committee for Nebraska Farm Service Agency by President George W. Bush in 2000 and served until 2008. In 2000, she served on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association. From 1978 to 1984 and again from 1991 to



Mary Gerdes

1997, she served on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation.

Gerdes and her husband received the SE Quad County Pork Achievement Award in 1980 and the State of Nebraska Soil and Water Stewardship

Award in 1989. Additionally, she received the SE Quad County Pork Producers Bell Ringer Award in 1998.

Among its duties, the State Highway Commission conducts hearings, investigations and studies in an effort to provide adequate and safe highways in the state. Its eight members serve in an advisory role to the director of the Nebraska Department of Roads.



Front row (l to r): Seth Brashears, Sherri Bridges, Marvin Taylor, Pat Holley, Mike Mosiman, Wayne Patras, David Mraz (FHWA), Mike Munson. **Back row:** Mark Traynowicz, Jeff Handeland, Babrak Niazi, Dallas Pears, Kent Miller, Kelley Green, Rod Wroblewski.

Element Bridge Inspections Pass Two-Year Milestone

On April 1, NDOR's Bridge Division completed the first two-year bridge inspection cycle of all 3,500 state-owned bridges using a new bridge inspection method called "element inspection." To comply with federal regulations, element inspections report the quantity of each bridge element in a given condition.

"This more detailed data collection will provide a better picture of the condition, and maintenance needs for bridges," said Babrak Niazi, Program Manager for the Nebraska Bridge Inspection Program.

The National Bridge Inspection Standard (NBIS) was established in the 1970s to assure the safety of the nation's bridges. The program requires that bridges are inspected at least every 24 months by certified bridge inspectors. The old NBIS inspection method provides a general condition appraisal of major bridge components such as deck, superstructure and substructure, while the new element-level inspection method adds additional appraisal for the condition of individual bridge

components called "elements." Examples of bridge elements include: girders, girder bearings, bridge railings, bridge deck, bridge piers and piles. An element inspection gives a more refined, individualized look at each bridge, providing a detailed snapshot of what is needed for keeping the bridges in a state of good repair.

"With element-level inspection information, including condition ratings and other functional and geometric data for bridges, we will be able to identify localized areas of attention on bridges such as failures of bridge joints, and better assess the performance of bridge preservation strategies. This will allow bridge owners and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to better determine the most cost-effective ways to keep bridges safe and in good condition," said Niazi.

To implement the new Element Inspection protocol, several changes were needed: (1) Bridge inspectors completed rigorous training to learn the new method; (2) The NDOR

Bridge Division developed guidance for the new inspection method in the Element Inspection Manual; (3) The Bridge Division upgraded bridge inspection software to collect and store the new element inspection data.

In April of 2014, NDOR implemented a new web-based bridge management application, called Bridge Management AASHTOWare (BrM), which allows inspectors and owners to directly input and access their bridge information in real time. This required the Bridge Division to review design plans for more than 3,500 state-owned bridges ahead of site inspections to input element quantities into BrM.

Now that the changes have been made, the Bridge Division is realizing the benefits of more uniform condition assessment of bridge elements and easier use of data in determining bridge preservation needs. "We have seen positive outcomes in the past two years and it is anticipated to reap many benefits for us in the long run, with safety of the traveling public our number one priority," said Niazi. ♦

Patriot Award Presented to NDOR's Jeffrey Johnston

Jeffrey Johnston, Engineer IV and Team Leader in NDOR's Roadway Design Division, was presented with an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award on March 18 by Nebraska ESGR volunteer Bruce Wood.

Nebraska Army National Guard Sgt. Oualala Coulibaly, Hwy. Designer II in Roadway Design, nominated Johnston for the award and writes, "My supervisor has no problem giving me time off for scheduled drills and also my two weeks annual training. He always welcomes me when I come back from my training and thanks me for my service. My employer makes me very comfortable and I don't have to worry about losing my job while I am gone for training."

State Command Sgt. Maj. Marty Baker, Nebraska Army National Guard, thanked Johnston for his commitment to Coulibaly and stated how important having supportive employers is to the readiness of the National Guard and Reserve.

ESGR, a Department of Defense (DoD) office, seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve of the United States. ESGR facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for the National Guard and Reserve by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their service members, and acting as the employers' principal advocate with DoD. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective, and proven leadership to the workforce. ♦



Patriot Award presented by Nebraska ESGR to NDOR's Jeffrey Johnston. Pictured, l to r: State Command Sgt. Maj. Marty Baker, Nebr. Army National Guard; 1st Lt. Edward Bosland; Oualala Coulibaly, NDOR; Jeffrey Johnston, NDOR; Bruce Wood, Nebr. ESGR Employer Outreach Director; Chief Warrant Officer Teresa Domeier; Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Hansen.

Mobility Management Adds Coordinating Committee

By Kari Ruse
Rail & Public Transportation Division

The NDOR Transit Section and SRF Consulting Group have assembled a Statewide Coordinating Committee (SCC) for the Nebraska Mobility Management Project. The SCC will serve as an advisory board for the project, providing input and a vision for the future of public transportation in Nebraska. Representatives from a variety of agencies have agreed to participate in the project:

- Nebraska Dept. of Education
- Community Action of Nebraska
- Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services
- Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging
- Nebr. Association of County Officials
- Citizens for Improved Transit
- Refugee Resettlement Program
- UNO Center for Public Affairs Research
- Nebr. Public Service Commission
- Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation



The first SCC meeting was held on January 14, during which members were briefed about the project history, objectives and timeline. A second meeting was held on March 3 to discuss mobility management projects in other states and the concept of regionalized transportation services.

Six Regional Coordinating Committees (RCC) have also been established. Members include transit providers, elected officials and human services organizations. The first RCC meetings were held in late March to gather input from a local perspective. A total of three meetings will be held in each region during the duration of the project. Additional stakeholder input will be solicited at six public meetings—one in each region. For more information, go to nebraskatransit.com.

New Intercity Bus Provider Welcomed

By Kari Ruse

Rail & Public Transportation Division

Panhandle Trails is a new intercity bus provider that began service in northwestern Nebraska on April 18. Service will be provided four days per week in Alliance, Scottsbluff, Sidney, Ogallala, Chadron and other small communities in the Panhandle region.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) defines intercity bus service as regularly scheduled service that operates with limited stops over fixed routes and makes meaningful connections with other modes of transportation (rail, air, other intercity bus providers, etc.) to more distant points through the national network of routes. FTA supports intercity bus service as it can provide a vital link between otherwise isolated rural communities and the rest of the nation. NDOR is the pass-through entity for state and federal funds to eligible intercity bus providers.

The new service will provide transportation to rural airports and regional medical facilities in western Nebraska. In addition, Panhandle Trails will connect passengers with other intercity bus providers including Denver Coach, Burlington

Trailways and Black Hills Stage Lines. These connections will expand public transportation access to destinations in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, New Mexico and Texas.

Jonnie Kusek, Panhandle Trails Transit Director, is excited for the new service to begin. Ms. Kusek says, "Through the years I have seen, heard and have personally experienced how people can become landlocked in an area as vast as the Nebraska Panhandle. The NDOR Public Transit Section and University of Nebraska partners are a great, progressive team to work with and they understand the mobility hurdles that our citizens and transportation providers are faced with across the state. Thank you NDOR for all of your support to transit agencies, for recognizing the need in the Panhandle region and for turning my personal vision to help others into a dream come true."

For more information about Panhandle Trails and their bus schedule, call 308-761-8748. To make reservations call 308-761-8747(TRIP). For a list of transportation providers in the state, visit NDOR's online transit directory at nebraskatransit.com/directory.php. ♦



2016 Nebraska Public Transit Week Celebrated

By Kari Ruse

Rail & Public Transportation Division

For many Nebraskans, public transit is a vital link to essential services like medical appointments, grocery shopping, and employment. To recognize transit providers and passengers, on March 9, 2016, Governor Pete Ricketts declared the second week in April as Nebraska Public Transit Week. This annual event is supported by the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers, Nebraska Department of Roads' Transit Section and NDOR's partners at the University of Nebraska.

Transit providers across the state promoted and celebrated public transit with balloons, yard signs and local proclamations. Nearly 30 providers organized activities, recognized drivers with appreciation luncheons and hosted public open houses. Here is just a partial list of the many activities:

- **Stuff the Bus:** Communities were encouraged to donate items and stuff the transit bus to benefit local food pantries, animal shelters and other local charities.
- **Veteran's Appreciation:** Free rides were offered to veterans on specific days or for the entire week.
- **Free and Discounted Rides:** Some transit providers offered a "Buddy Day" promotion so two could ride for the price of one. Other providers offered free rides for an entire day and scavenger hunts for discounted tickets.
- **Open Houses:** There were ice cream socials, hamburger feeds, popcorn bags and cookies galore!
- **Promotional Items:** Riders received coffee mugs, pens, note pads, magnets and stickers with the Public Transit Week logo.



Top - Denny Carr, dispatcher for Seward County Public Transit, serves root beer floats during an open house.

Bottom - North Platte Stuff the Bus

Paving Awards Presented in Kearney

Project managers and construction technicians were honored with awards for both concrete and asphalt pavements at the annual Project Managers' Conference held March 1-3 in Kearney. The awards recognized their work on Nebraska highways during 2015.

The Nebraska Department of Roads sponsors the awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement construction. Awards of excellence for highway construction projects using concrete pavement are sponsored by NDOR and the Nebraska Concrete Paving Association (NCPA).

Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

The award for excellence in **Inter-state Highways and Expressways** was presented to Project Manager Doug Lollman of District 3 in Norfolk for his management of **Norfolk Northeast**. Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska, was the prime contractor for this 3.5-mile reconstruction project on N-35 in southeast Norfolk. Shane Swope and Marie Stamm of Schemer Associates designed the project under the oversight of Lonnie Hubert, NDOR Consultant Coordinator. The project included 116,500 square yards of 10-inch doweled concrete pavement and 44,000 square yards of 10-inch plain concrete pavement. The construction inspection team included Construction Technicians Bill Whitten, Amy Wattier, Mark Mazuch, Neil Kreikemeier, Terry Becker, Rob Woodard, Dave Hedrick, Jeff Otto-Berglund and Dave Wendle, who received Certificates of Merit at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop for their inspection duties.

Receiving the award for the **Municipal Streets** category was Project Manager Tim Sell of District 7 in Holdrege for his management of **Garfield Street East**. The project was designed by John Lyons in the NDOR Roadway Design Division. The project was built by Paulsen, Inc., and consisted of reconstruction of 10 blocks of urban paving on US-6 on the east side of Holdrege. The project included 21,000 square yards of 9-inch

doweled concrete pavement, 3,000 square yards of sidewalks, 2,300 square yards of color imprinted sidewalks, 2,000 square yards of driveways, plus storm sewer and other utility work. Construction Technicians Wayne Witt and Cory Cruzen were recognized with Certificates of Merit at the January NCPA Workshop for their inspection duties.

Honored in the **Concrete Pavement Restoration** category was Project Manager Gary Brinker of District 6 in North Platte for his management of **N-61, Kingsley Dam**. The project was designed by Greg Wood in the Construction Division with the help of Linda (Zip) Masek in Materials & Research. The prime contractor was Ten Point Construction Co., Inc., of Denison, Iowa. This concrete repair work was performed on the Lake McConaughy Kingsley Dam Road. Despite the challenge involved with the lack of shoulders and concrete barrier curb and cable guard rail at the roadway edges, there were 40 cubic yards of Class A repairs, 240 cubic yards of Class B repairs and 3,000 cubic yards of Class 3 repairs made. The project included conventional pavement construction, cross-stitching and curb inlet repair work. Inspections Certificates of Merit were presented to Jesse Hazen and Mason Watson at the January NCPA Workshop.

Pavement smoothness, quality control, innovation, complexity, appearance, management and safety of the project were considered in the selection of the award winning concrete pavement projects.



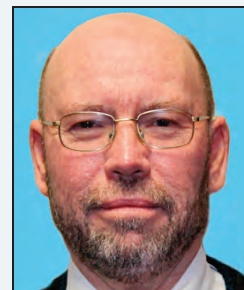
Doug Lollman



Tim Sell



Gary Brinker



Mike Rudnick



Toby Thomsen



Mike Steffensmeier



James Johnson



Dan Ziska

Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

Five projects received awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement, including an award given to the smoothest nominated project. Nominated projects were judged by a panel who rated each project based on smoothness, quality control, complexity, innovation, general appearance, contractor management and safety.

Paving Awards *(cont'd.)*

Harrop-Rose was recognized as the **Best Asphalt Paving Project with a Single Lift**. Mike Rudnick of District 8 in Ainsworth received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This project was an 11-mile segment of US-183 directly south of Rose, Nebraska, northwest of the Calamus Reservoir. It was a 2-inch mill-and-fill with Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR, built by Paulsen, Inc. The project included 22,800 tons of hot mix. Milling was completed in 9 days and the asphalt was placed in 11 days. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Pamela J. Schmitz, Daniel Zwiebel, Allison Davis and Micheal Ripley for their inspection duties.

Dismal River North and South was recognized as the **Best Project Using a Leveling Course**. Toby Thomsen of District 6 in North Platte received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This project extended along US-83 from 3 miles south to 4 miles north of the Dismal River. This work was completed by Werner Construction Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska, who placed 3,600 tons of Asphalt Type SPL in a ¾-inch lift directly atop the existing bituminous surface. This ¾-inch leveling course was overlain with 23,300 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR in a ¾-inch-thick top course. There was also 15,600 tons

of Asphalt Type SPS placed on the existing surface shoulders. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Bruce Malsbury, Thomas Thornton, Jeff Bruns, David Clouatre, Mason Watson and Kurt Snider for their part in performing inspection activities.

Albion to N-45 was recognized as the **Best Project Utilizing Two or More Lifts**. Mike Steffensmeier of District 3 in Columbus received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This N-91 project extended 12 miles east of Albion. Constructors, Inc., of Lincoln, Nebraska, hired Dustrol, Inc. to cold mill 4 inches from the existing roadway surface, in which the bottom 2 inches of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR had to be inlaid on the same day. In addition, the 2½-foot-wide trench widening had to be made on the same day as this lower 2 inches of mill and inlay work. As part of this work, 53,000 tons of hot mix were produced and placed. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Gary Wittwer, Bill Studnicka, Tom Hyland, Amy Wattier and Dave Anderson for their inspection roles.

I-80, Kimball East was recognized as the **Best Interstate Asphalt Project**, with James Johnson, of District 5 in Gering receiving an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager and Paulsen, Inc. was recognized as the

prime contractor. This 3-mile project extended along I-80 from the Kimball Interchange to about 1 mile east of the N-22 Interchange. The project included concrete pavement repair work, followed by a 2-inch mill-and-fill across the driving lanes and shoulders, eastbound and westbound. Paulsen Inc. placed 18,000 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPH on the mainline lanes and inside shoulders, and 3,600 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPS on the outside shoulders. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Andy Vergil, Darryl Steinwart, Casey Miller and Marc Smith for their inspection duties.

Holt/Garfield County Line South was recognized with the **Smoothest Pavement Award**. Dan Ziska of District 8 in O'Neill received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. Vontz Paving, Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska, earned a perfect 107.0% smoothness incentive value for this 11-mile project on N-11 — the first project in Nebraska to achieve perfect smoothness. The project consisted of 1½ inches of cold milling followed by the placement of 2½ inches Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR (fine) across the existing 28-foot top roadway — a total of 27,500 tons of SPR (fine). Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Ramsy Robertson and Kathy Clyde for inspection activities. ♦

NUDECK Bridge on Kearney East Bypass Wins Award

Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha, Nebraska, subcontractor for construction of the NUDECK Bridge on the Kearney East Bypass project, was recipient of the 2014-2015 NDOR/AGC Bridge Construction Award. The bridge was constructed during Phase II of the bypass project, which involves relocation of N-10 in Buffalo County.

The bypass begins on the southeast edge of Kearney, running north and northwesterly, from the I-80-Exit 275 Interchange to the N-10/N-40 intersection north of Kearney. The bridge is located where the new bypass crosses the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks and U.S. Highway 30 (US-30).

Tom Farber was the NDOR

District 4 Project Manager and Jesse Ridder was the Project Manager for Hawkins Construction Company. Curt Oerter was the Project Manager for Werner Construction, Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska, the prime contractor for the bypass project. The award was presented during the 2016 Project Managers' Conference March 1-3 In Kearney.

NUDECK Bridge (cont'd.)



Hawkins Construction Company was recipient of the 2014-2015 NDOR/AGC Bridge Construction Award. *Pictured (l to r):* Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer; Katie Wilson, AGC Nebraska Chapter Executive Director; Tom Farber, NDOR District 4 Project Manager; Mark Traynowicz, NDOR Bridge Engineer; Jesse Ridder, Project Manager, Hawkins Construction Company; Dustin Grimm, NDOR Construction Tech II; Phillip Wright, NDOR Construction Tech III; Kent Washington, NDOR Construction Tech III; Curt Oerter, Project Manager, Werner Construction; Kevin McAdoo, Concrete Superintendent, Werner Construction; Nick Smets, NDOR Construction Tech II; and Ray Smith, Surveyor, Werner Construction.

According to Farber, who submitted the nomination form, Hawkins did an excellent job of constructing the 42-foot-wide, two-span structure.

Innovative Design

This design of the bridge was highly innovative. It was the first bridge constructed in greater Nebraska utilizing the pre-fabricated deck panel concept. The bridge project used the second generation of precast concrete deck system (NUDECK) and is the only bridge in Nebraska with precast concrete deck panels placed on precast/prestressed concrete I-girders.

The subcontractor needed to weld galvanized plated shelf angles along the outside of the five NU-1800 girders which supported the deck panels when they were set. The placement of the deck panels created a pocket between the top of the girders and the deck panels. Inside the pocket is where the post-tensioning cables are located. The subcontractor had to string a dozen 5/8-inch diameter post-tensioning cables across each of the five girders spanning 332 feet in length.

Farber noted, "This took some forward thinking to come up with a procedure to pull the cables across the top of the girders without dropping them over the edge and into harm's way. Vehicle traffic on US-30 and railroad traffic on the UPRR were always a concern when it came to this type of work."

Since this is the first deck panel bridge constructed in Nebraska with pockets between the top of the girders and the deck panels that were filled with a self-consolidating concrete (SCC) after the post-tensioning work was completed, the subcontractor spent a great deal of time and materials sealing cracks where the SCC could leak out and drop onto the UPRR tracks, or onto the highway. Hawkins rose to the challenge by constructing an apparatus in the field that deposited the SCC into the grouting ports as required. The subcontractor also purchased a large number of five-gallon buckets, then filled them with sand to cover the filled grouting ports as the SCC work was proceeding across the top of the deck.

According to Farber, the only environmental concern involved existing ditches along the north and south side of the UPRR lines that were classified as wetlands. This required Hawkins to install wooden planks atop the ditch to traverse across during construction of the bridge.

Excellent Communication

Hawkins maintained excellent communication with UPRR during all aspects of the project, and particularly when setting the girders. Farber noted that with the number of trains that passed through every day, it was imperative that this high level of communication was maintained.

The NDOR/AGC Bridge Construction Award recognizes quality bridge construction in Nebraska. Categories that were considered included: quality of workmanship, project management, innovation in construction or use of material, contribution to traveling public/community, environmentally sensitive, rising to the challenge – difficult job or situation, and safety. ♦

Signature Award Goes to Dave Neill

Dave Neill, Superintendent for Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska, received the 2015 Signature Award for excellent work on Nebraska Department of Roads projects. He was honored at ceremonies during the 2016 Project Managers' Conference March 1-3 in Kearney.

Drew Wilson, District 7 Construction Engineer, presented the award to Neill, commenting, "Dave has been and is a leader and role model in our industry. Over the past year his efforts on the Garfield Street East in Holdrege project are a perfect example of the outstanding professionalism put forward by Dave every year."

Creative Solutions

Wilson noted that work on the concrete reconstruction project occurred during one of the wettest spring and summers in the last ten years, which required creative solutions. "Dave and NDOR worked together to come up with solutions that allowed the project to remain on track. Paulsen and their subcontractors were on the project on many occasions pumping rain water to keep the project moving forward. Helping the utility companies, incorporating over 698 tons of fly ash into the subgrade and pumping water were just a few of the extra things Paulsen did to make this project successful."

When being on schedule is as important as it was on this project and issues arise, the quality of the work tends to suffer, but that was not the case, according to Wilson. "The amount of pride from the business owners and locals of the Holdrege community was matched only by the pride taken in the work performed by the prime contractor, Paulsen, and their subcontractors. From the red stamped concrete to the 9-inch concrete pavement, it is apparent that the contractors that worked on this project were true masters of their craft."



Pictured, l to r: Drew Wilson, NDOR District 7 Construction Engineer; Dave Neill, recipient of the 2015 Signature Award; and Katie Wilson, AGC Nebraska Chapter Executive Director.

Extra Effort

With all the amazing work on the project, Wilson said that it was the extra effort off the project that made the true difference. "It is not often that you will find a prime contractor that was more concerned, informed and in control of their schedule and subcontractors than Dave with Paulsen. Given the circumstances without Dave's dedication, hard work and forward thinking, this project would have truly been a nightmare."

He highlighted many qualities that made Dave deserving of this award, including above and beyond management practices, exemplary leadership and excellence in communication.

"Dave has a true knowledge of all phases of construction that allow him to solve issues without being told and often before they arise. Dave's creative use of language and skill to convey his point of view has given him the unique ability to efficiently communicate during public speaking and outreach. He has also freely given the public his time, energy and knowledge during constructability meetings on future projects. Dave has had a resounding impact on all phases

of the project and is more than deserving of this award."

In his acceptance speech, Dave thanked his staff on the project for all the hard work they put forward. He noted that the award should really go to them as they were truly the ones that made his job easy. He also mentioned that Tim Sell, NDOR Project Manager, and his staff were excellent to work with and were a large contributing factor to the success of the project.

The Signature Award is given by NDOR District Construction Engineers to individuals in the contracting industry possessing certain characteristics, including excellence in leadership, good communication, problem solving, organization, attitude, safety, and achieving above and beyond standard management practices. In addition to receiving a trophy, plaque and having their names added to a permanent plaque at the NDOR Central Headquarters, a \$500 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to a University of Nebraska student majoring in construction engineering or construction management. ♦

Kwiatkowski Project Manager of the Year

Rick Kwiatkowski, of St. Paul, was honored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) as NDOR Project Manager of the Year. Kwiatkowski received a traveling trophy and plaque at the Project Managers' Conference at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney on March 1.

Kwiatkowski started with NDOR in 1970 in the Broken Bow office. He relocated to St. Paul in 1972, and has been there for the past 44 years. Over the years, he has steadily moved up from Engineering Aide to Engineering Associate to Highway Project Manager.

District 4 Engineer Keith Meyer noted, "Rick is a valued member of the District 4 team. He has a talent to foresee what needs to be done in a particular order to ensure a smooth running project. He

excels at communicating, and this extends beyond the contractor and others in NDOR to the local officials, law enforcement, utility companies, railroads, property owners and anybody else who can help the project get done."

The award is presented annually by the AGC to an NDOR project manager who has upheld the standards of conducting business within the highway construction industry with the highest level of ethics and integrity. The trophy is called the Lyle Leader Memorial Award in tribute to Mr. Leader, who was a project manager at NDOR for 34 years. He was active in the District 3 Hartington office at the time of his death



Pictured, l to r: Keith Meyer, NDOR District 4 Construction Engineer; Katie Wilson, Executive Director, AGC Nebraska Chapter; Rick Kwiatkowski, 2015 Project Manager of the Year; and Tyler Chicoine, AGC Nebraska Chapter National Director.

in August 1991 and was highly respected by his peers within the department and by the contractor members of AGC.

All contractor members submitted a nomination for this award and the nominees were voted upon by the members of the AGC. For the year 2015, Kwiatkowski received the high honor. ♦

Awards of Appreciation Presented to Claude Oie and Steve Bartos

During the 2016 Project Managers' Conference, NDOR District 4 Construction Engineer Keith Meyer presented awards of appreciation to Construction Engineer Claude Oie and Assistant Construction Engineer Steve Bartos on their retirements. The awards were presented on behalf of NDOR's District Construction Engineers and Assistant District Construction Engineers in commemoration of more than 44 years of NDOR service by both Claude and

Steve, including more than 24 years by each in the Construction Division.

In his remarks, Keith expressed appreciation to Claude and Steve for their years of guidance, advice and friendship, adding special thanks for "getting projects to letting and awarded, keeping spec's and special provisions up to date, improving the quality and uniformity of the change orders, and being there for the districts as they worked through project issues."

Keith noted the tokens of appreciation reflected the hopes of the DCEs and ADCEs for many future years of enjoyment. The fishing-themed plaque, presented to Claude, included a quote attributed to a Babylonian proverb: "The Gods do not deduct from a man's allotted span the hours spent on fishing." The golfing-themed plaque presented to Steve included the following quote: "May thy ball lie in green pastures... And not in still waters." ♦



NDOR District 4 Construction Engineer Keith Meyer presents an award of appreciation from the DCEs and the ADCEs to Construction Engineer Claude Oie and Assistant Construction Engineer Steve Bartos on their retirements. Standing l to r: Rob Davis, District 3; Marvin Lech, District 2; Maurice Hinchey, District 2; Curt Muetting, District 1; Cameron Craig, District 6; Jason Rotter, District 4; Drew Wilson, District 7; Jason Lehn, District 8; Thomas (Drew) Parks, District 5; and Bob Rankin, District 1.

Nebraska Teachers Participate in “TRAC & RIDES” Training

By Karen Mosier
Human Resources Division

On February 18 and 19, twelve teachers from South Sioux City, Ralston, Polk (High Plains), Hastings, Grand Island, Norris, Auburn and Humboldt (HTRS) participated in the second annual TRAC & RIDES training in Lincoln. Two national trainers from Mississippi led the workshop and presented the activities in an educational and fun environment. TRAC & RIDES is an educational program designed and sponsored by AASHTO to promote education and careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines.

Eight RIDES teachers, all elementary level educators, began their training with a scavenger hunt through the RIDES trunks to discover what the 70+ lb. containers held. Included in their materials was a CD full of lesson

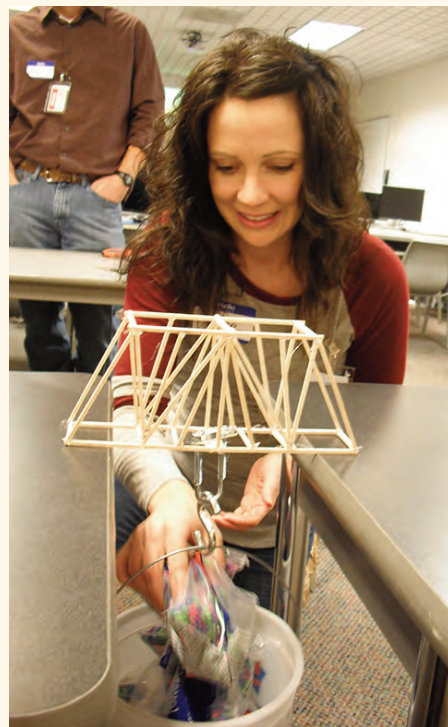
plans, demonstration ideas and teaching tools that introduce basic science concepts utilizing equipment and supplies in the trunks. Teachers were students for the two days and participated in a variety of experiments and activities. Working in teams, they designed, raced and evaluated clay cars, floated aluminum foil boats, weighed and measured items to record data, illustrated the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies, and many other activities.

At the end of the training, teachers took the trunks with them to use in their own schools. Andrea from Grand Island stated, “I loved this program! I’m excited to take all of the materials provided and ideas back to use with my students. I’m so excited to see the smiles and excitement from my kids!” Char from Ralston stated “... the materials are extraordinary.”

Four TRAC teachers designed and built bridges using the Bridge Builder engineering software and balsa wood, then tested the structures adding weight to buckets until the bridges broke to determine overall strength. Other activities included designing and racing cars using magnetic levitation in the MAG LEV PAC,

laying out a city with SimCity software and data, experimenting with environmental concepts and materials with the Environmental Engineering PAC, and evaluating traffic patterns and flow with the Traffic Technology PAC. The Design and Construction PAC included software, equipment and lessons on road design, capacity, budgets, etc. Teachers were able to order up to four TRAC PACs per school and the PACs served as format for the workshop.

The TRAC & RIDES program is an investment in the youth of our state – NDOR and many other state agencies and businesses need all the scientists, mathematicians, engineers and designers we can develop. This program, as it spreads across the state, can serve as a catalyst for young people to consider these careers as they plan for their future. It’s a good investment! ♦



Left - TRAC teachers calculating speed, time and distance!
Top- How much weight can it hold?



Photos by Karen Mosier, NDOR



NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis and Food Bank Executive Director Scott Young, gathered with NDOR's Food Bank Drive Coordinators to celebrate during the "wrap-up" event held on April 26 in the NDOR Auditorium.

NDOR Employees Embrace Spirit of Giving During Annual Food Drive

Great people, great food and great fun brought great results during the NDOR Food Drive April 4-15, with contributions totaling \$13,805 in cash.

A spirit of generosity prevailed throughout the two-week food drive, and, as in past years, creativity was encouraged in planning the fund-raising activities and events by the divisions and four participating districts.

According to Food Bank Executive Director Scott Young, this year's donations will allow them to purchase approximately \$66,264 in food with their suppliers and to feed 37 four-person families for an entire year. He said that NDOR is the largest contributor during the state campaign and it is greatly appreciated.

With Food Drive Coordinator Heather Kowalski spearheading the effort, coordinators from each division helped with Food Drive activities, collections of donations and displays of donated items during the two-week effort. They encouraged NDOR employees in their work areas to do whatever they could to meet or surpass last year's totals.

Food was a major draw again this year among the divisions, with seven luncheons, a pancake feed, homemade breakfast burritos, root beer floats, homemade pies, cheesecake and concessions stands. Among contests and activities, back by popular demand this year were the egg toss, speed pitch, silent auctions, raffles, "cutest kid contest," and "change fairies," fluttering from building to building collecting enough coins to

fill the giant wishing well on display near the entrance to the Central Headquarters Building. Change wars were also held between the divisions.

New activities included a "guess the baby face" contest, a "hula hoop pass" and "The Amazing Race." The 3rd annual carnival, held on the final day of the Food Drive, had a great turnout, including many children of NDOR employees. The carnival, held outdoors this year, included games,

Pictured, front row, l to r: Trish Sanchez, Business Technology Systems; JoAnn Kroll, Legal; Nancy Burdine, Communication; Heather Silver, Construction; Heather Kowalski, Roadway Design; Cara Woldt, Roadway Design; James Busing, Controller and Jacqueline Schrotberger, Right-of-Way. Back row: Verneda Kelly, Director's Office; Brandi Jording, Construction; Geri Waechter, Human Resources; Donna Hosick, Traffic Engineering; Tim Yates, Materials & Research; and Samantha Mettenbrink, Traffic Engineering.

Food Drive (cont'd.)

food, a photo booth and a speed pitch contest, with members of the Nebraska State Patrol on hand to clock the speeds. Prizes were awarded for winners of the contests and games.

During the wrap-up on April 26, a cash donation of \$13,805 was presented by Schneweis to Young, who thanked NDOR employees for their continued generosity. Schneweis thanked Food Drive Coordinator, Heather Kowalski, and each of the division and district coordinators for all their hard work. He also expressed gratitude to NDOR employees for all their efforts, enthusiasm and selfless giving.

Kowalski presented special awards, including plaques to the top fund-raising divisions: Right-of-Way, Construction, and Materials & Research. The "Sunshine" award was

presented to Cara Wolt, Roadway Design; Karen Mosier, Planning & Project Development; Penny Clark, Operations; and Samantha Mettenbrink, Traffic Engineering. The "Superhero" award was given to the coordinators who raised the most for their division: Jacqueline Schrotberger, Right-of-Way; Heather Silver, Construction; and Tim Yates, Materials & Research. Donna Hosick, Traffic Engineering, also received this award for her creativity – she made all the carnival games and the photo booth. "Sweetheart" awards went to those who brought the homemade cheesecake, pie, jam and sheet cakes: Karen Mosier, Planning & Project Development; John Miller, Construction; Verneda Kelly, Director's Office; and JoAnn Kroll, Legal. ♦

Food Bank Drive Coordinators

Bridge - Sherri Bridges
Business Tech. Support - Trish Sanchez
Communication - Nancy Burdine
Construction - Heather Silver, Brandi Jording
Controller - James Busing
Director's Office - Verneda Kelly
Human Resources - Geri Waechter
Mat'l's. & Research - Tim Yates
Operations - Penny Clark, Karrie Olson
Plan. & Proj. Develop. - Sandra Knippelmeyer, Linda Langdale
Program Management - Karen Mosier
Rail & Public Trans. - Ann Nitzel
Right-of-Way - Jacqueline Schrotberger
Roadway Design - Heather Kowalski, Cara Woldt
Traffic Engineering - Donna Hosick, Samantha Mettenbrink
District 3 - Rodney Weber
District 4 - Lauren Swiatoviak
District 5 - Cindy Vergil
District 8 - Erin Allen



Photos by Dan Luedert

Clockwise - Anthony Marshall, Planning & Project Development, puts his throwing arm to the test during the Speed Pitch Contest. Members of the Nebraska State Patrol assisted with clocking the speeds.

Carrie Wencel, Planning & Project Development, takes aim at her target during the Food Drive Carnival.

NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis and his son, Karver, joined NDOR employees, including Sue Gott, left, and Nancy Burdine, right, for lunch during NDOR's Food Drive Carnival on April 15.

Traffic Engineering Employees Treated to Healthy Lunches

Highway Safety Section employees in NDOR's Traffic Engineering Division and their guests recently had the opportunity to enjoy a potluck lunch that was both healthy and delicious, thanks to the efforts of NDOR Wellness Champion Stephanie Kessler, who planned the lunch menu, and her coworkers, who assisted by bringing the healthy food items. The menu included tomato and bocconcini salad; sweet kale salad mix; fresh strawberries and cantaloupe; orange sherbet salad; whole wheat rolls; chicken piccata; whole wheat spaghetti; angel food cake; and chocolate chip bars.

Samples of healthy snacks were also available.

In addition to NDOR employees who attended, special guests on hand to enjoy the healthy lunch included NDOR Traffic Engineer Dan Waddle and state wellNEssoptions Program Coordinator, Barbara Munro. Waddle thanked Kessler for her efforts in setting an example for coworkers in her division. Munro also thanked Kessler for promoting a healthy lifestyle in the workplace by showing some of the simple steps they can take to improve their health. She added, "Eating healthy is not a short-term diet. It's a long-term lifestyle

change – one healthy meal at a time!"

As one of NDOR's Wellness Champions, Kessler serves as a resource to the State of Nebraska Wellness Program to build a culture of health by communicating wellNEssoptions programs to her coworkers, with focused efforts aimed at small behavior changes. She provides guidance and support regarding program offerings and sets an example for others in the workplace. She works with other Wellness Champions across the state to generate new ideas and promote wellness in ways best fitting their fellow employees. ♦

Right: Samples of the healthy lunch items offered during a recent lunch in NDOR's Highway Safety Section included tomato and bocconcini salad, whole wheat spaghetti, whole wheat rolls, fresh fruit and orange sherbet salad.

Below, l to r: Stephanie Kessler, Statistical Clerk I in Highway Safety; NDOR Traffic Engineer Dan Waddle; and state wellNEssoptions Program Coordinator Barbara Munro admire a handmade "Wellness Champion" quilt that Kessler presented to Munro during the recent "healthy" lunch.



Photos by Dan Luedert





Tips / Tricks

Relational (Comparative) Operators

Relational (comparative) operators allow you to retrieve documents based on a range of Keyword Values, as well as exact Keyword Value matches. Select the Document Type Group and Document Type of the document you want to search for. Click the relational operator button to the left of the Keyword Type field to toggle through the available operators.

Operator	Description
=	An exact Keyword Value match.
<>	Keyword Values that are not equal to the specified value.
>	Keyword Values that are greater than the specified value.
>=	Keyword Values that are greater than or equal to the specified value.
<	Keyword Values that are less than the specified value.
<=	Keyword Values that are less than or equal to the specified value.
"	The string literal operator used with alphanumeric Keyword Types. Selecting this button will match the literal string. If a wildcard is used in the string, the search will look for the exact match including the wildcard.

Wildcard Characters

A wildcard character can be used to match Keyword Values where one or more characters are unknown. Wildcards can only be used to match alphanumeric Keyword Values.

Wildcard	Description
*	The * wildcard character can be used to replace one or several characters of a text string. For example, the text string Smit* will find all instances of both Smith and Smithsonian.
?	The ? wildcard character can be used to replace a single character in the text string. For example, the text string SM?TH will find all instances of both Smith and Smyth.

Logical (Boolean) Operators

If you have two or more fields for the same Keyword Type, each of these fields is separated from the next by one of the following logical operators: And, Or, or To. The current logical operator appears to the right of the first of the two Keyword Type fields. You can create an additional Keyword Type field by double-clicking its name or pressing F6 while your cursor is positioned in the data entry field of the Keyword Type you wish to add. This automatically inserts a logical operator button to the right of the original Keyword Type field.

Operator	Description
And	Searches for documents containing the Keyword Values preceding and following the logical operator.
Or	Searches for documents containing either the value preceding the logical operator or the value following the logical operator.
To	Searches for all values that are between the two values (i.e., that are greater than or equal to the first value and less than or equal to the second value). This operator is unavailable for alphanumeric Keyword Types.

Check Out NDOR Library's Online Catalog

By Denise Matulka
Communication Division

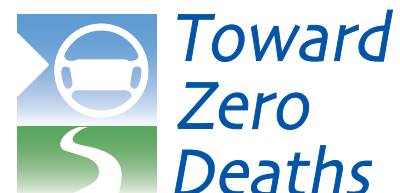
The NDOR library has a new online catalog with enhanced features to assist NDOR staff in locating materials.

There are four search types: anywhere, author, subject, and title. The search box has autocomplete, so staff can begin typing and the catalog will offer suggestions as they type. There is also an enhanced search feature with additional search options. Some of the new features include:

- Subject and series links to locate similar materials
- Controlled subject headings to locate materials about a topic
- Staff can refine searches by format and date
- Over 2,500 records link to electronic versions and more are added every day

Once an item is located, send the title and call number via the "contact the librarian" link at the bottom of the catalog or email dor.library@nebraska.gov.

Find how-to resources at <http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/news-media/media-library/>



We Get Mail...

January 14, 2016

To: Tim Weander, District 2

Just wanted to give the Department of Roads a big thank you for the help on closing the roads and keeping law enforcement alerted to any issues that were seen on the cameras.

As you know, getting the Interstate closed at rush hour traffic and for the length it had to be closed to protect the president is a task in and amongst itself. The plow drivers were invaluable to us in that closing. No doubt there were some people that were not very happy with the situation, but we had a job to do.

Those working the cameras were able to give us locations and descriptions of people that were walking on the bridges or parked nearby that needed to be handled prior to the presidential detail going through. We were able to get the appropriate law enforcement there to handle it in a timely manner.

With the teamwork between the Department of Roads and law enforcement, everything went smoothly.

Thanks to you, Jim, Gary and all those that were involved from the Department of Roads for your assistance in this assignment.

*Captain Brenda Konfrst
Nebraska State Patrol*

Editor's Note: Jim Laughlin, District 2 Hwy. Superintendent and Gary Forman, District Operations Center Manager, assisted during President Obama's visit to Omaha on January 13, 2016.

March 24, 2016

Sent to Roger Klasna, District 6

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, and your team, for partnering with the Troop D Patrol personnel who were working the blizzard yesterday.

My personnel were at their limits dealing with the hazardous conditions when I called and requested that the NDOR close a section of I-80 to assist us. Without hesitation, you made it happen. Know that we value our relationship with District 6 personnel, and will continue to work with the Department of Roads to provide safe roads in District 6/Troop D.

*Lynn R. Williams, #183
NSP Captain – Troop D Commander
North Platte, Nebraska*

January 8, 2016

I want to thank the Department of Roads in Niobrara for the great job they do removing snow/ice on the highways in our area. They are always in the best condition of any around when it snows. My husband travels to South Dakota for work, and says as soon as he crosses Chief Standing Bear bridge into South Dakota the roads are awful when it snows, but the Nebraska highways are good. I travel to Santee for my job and the spur is a scary road even in good weather, but I appreciate the effort made to keep it from being slippery. I just want to say good job and thanks!

Lisa Delp

February 2, 2016

To: Kevin Domogalla, District 3

Please extend our appreciation to your Norfolk staff and the Columbus employees for their prompt installation of the additional directional signs of historical markers in Platte County. Those of us with the Platte County Historical Society are very appreciative of the manner and promptness of the installation of the new signs.

We are confident motorists will be more attentive to the historical markers and will increase their knowledge of Platte County history as well as increase local tourist activity. Thank you.

*Barb Sanders, President
Platte County Historical Society*

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

Kindergarten Students Tour NDOR Ord Maintenance Yard



Central Valley School Kindergarten students from Greeley/Wolbach and North Loup/Scotia recently toured the District 4 Ord Maintenance Yard. **Back row, l to r:** Barb Anderson, teacher; Jeff Grooms, Hwy. Maintenance Crew Chief; Hayden Sich and Bob Bennett, Hwy. Maintenance Workers Sr.; Gene Arduser, Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor; Justin Welton, Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.; Vicky Keep and Diane Ryan, paraeducators. The Ord Crew showed students the Oshkosh snow blower, loader, motor grader and truck/snowplow. The students' favorite place on the tour was the salt shed.

All in the Family

Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.

Please note: Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Births

Congratulations to Dan and Angie Waddle on the birth of their granddaughter, Lily Josephina, born December 19. Dan is an Engineer VII in Traffic Engineering.

Congratulations to Ben and Anh Tran on the birth of their son, Dylan Thuan-Phuoc Tran, born December 16. Ben is an IT Business Systems Analyst in Construction.

Congratulations to Bev Kellison on the birth of her seventh grandchild, Cadence Michelle, born April 4. Cadence joins her brother Quincy, age 3. Bev is a Statistical Analyst III in Communication.

Congratulations to Melissa and John Marinovich on the birth of their daughter, Autumn Lily Louise, born November 21. Melissa is a Hwy. Environmental Biologist in Planning & Project Development. The proud grandmother is Cindy Veys, retired NDOR employee.

Congratulations to Dean and Rhonda DeButts on the birth of their sixth grandchild, Braelynn Ranae, born February 3. Dean is a Hwy. Materials Designer in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Nikolas and Laura Glennie on the birth of their son, Lukas Edward, born January 1. Lukas was the first baby born in 2016 in Omaha. Nikolas is Bridge Foundation Engineer in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Jean and Mark Hamilton on the birth of their granddaughter, Ella Marie, born February 9. Jean is the Administrative Assistant for District 1 in Lincoln.

Congratulations to Bill and Sheri Kinser on the birth of their granddaughter, Scarlett Rae, born December 31. Bill is a Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor at District 2 in Plattsmouth.

Congratulations to Neal VanderWoude (Woody) on the birth of his granddaughter, Aurora Ann, born February 28. Neal is a Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor at District 3 in South Sioux City.

Congratulations to Steve Meyer on the birth of his granddaughter, Haddie Mae, born January 28. Steve is a Project Manager at District 4 in Grand Island.

Congratulations to Kevin and Teresa Mohr on the birth of their son, Asher Mohr, born March 8. Kevin is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 4 in Hastings.

Congratulations to Oliver and Georgia Berthelsen on the birth of their son, Rex Ryan, born April 1. Oliver is an Auto/Diesel Mechanic at District 4 in Grand Island.

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *February through May 2016.*

40 Years

Laurie Burling, Controller
David Guilfoil, Construction
Eddy Morrell, District 6
Richard Soden, District 3

30 Years

Carlos Campa, District 6
Charles Carter, District 3
William Farber, District 4
Diane Holthus, Human Resources
Jeffrey Johnston, Roadway Design
Kenneth Neuhalfen, District 3
Kitty Riggins, District 6
Raymond Trujillo, District 2
Denise Wallman, Operations
Robert Wiebelhaus, District 3
Macario Zapata, District 5

20 Years

Nancy Claassen, Plan. & Proj. Dev.
Richard Dunham, District 4
Warren Groves, District 6
Dale Piening, Operations
John Saxton, District 5
Matthew Schmalz, District 7
Robert Thomsen, District 4
Chris Tuttle, District 3

10 Years

Bruce Barrett, Materials & Research
Scott Bashore, Roadway Design
David Carroll, District 4
Mark Dissmeyer, District 4
Ryan Eggli, District 5
Mark Fischer, Program Mgmt.
Justin Gibney, District 2
Jeffrey Hack, District 5
Donn Hazlett, District 7
Michael Johnson, District 2
James Land, District 5
Kaine McClelland, Plan. & Proj. Dev.
Richard McDowell, District 6
Stanley McNabb, District 8
Richard Montgomery, Plan. & Proj. Dev.
Travis Nicholson, District 1
Hugh Robertson, Plan. & Proj. Dev.
Roger Sexton, District 1
Drew Wilson, District 7

All in the Family (cont'd.)

Congratulations to Jim and Jo Morpew on the birth of their granddaughter, Leah Elizabeth, on December 15. Jim is the Hwy. District ROW Permit Officer at District 6 in North Platte.

Weddings

Congratulations to Rebekah King on her marriage to Shane Willoughby April 23. Rebekah is a Hwy. Bridge Data Technician in Bridge.

Congratulations to Anna Rea on her marriage to Seth Neben on May 14. Anna is a Hwy. Local Projects Coordinator in Materials & Research.

Condolences

Condolences to David Schoenmaker on the passing of his mother. David is an Engineer IV in Planning & Project Development.

Condolences to Brad Finch on the passing of his father. Brad is an IT Business Systems Analyst Coordinator in Materials & Research.

Condolences to Blayne Renner on the death of his grandmother. Blayne is a Hwy. Environmental Biologist in Planning & Project Development.

Condolences to Kim Colgrove on the passing of her husband. Kim is a Statistical Clerk I, in Traffic Engineering-Hwy. Safety-Accidents Records.

Condolences to Rose Braun and family on the loss of her husband Tom Braun. Tom retired from Local Projects in 2011. Rose is an IT Supervisor in Business Technology Support.

Condolences to Karen Svoboda on the loss of her brother-in-law. Karen is an Information Technology Infrastructure Support Analyst in Business Technology Support.

Condolences to Ron and Elaine Anderson on the loss of their daughter Erika Elizabeth. Ron is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Senior at District 4 in Kearney.

Condolences to Doug Gertsch on the death of his father. Doug is a Hwy. Construction Tech III at District 6 in North Platte.

Condolences to family, friends and past co-workers of Harold Francis on his passing. Harold retired from District 4 in Grand Island in 2008.

This 'n That

Congratulations to Joyce Harring on her retirement after 43 years of service. Joyce was an Accounting Clerk II in Controller.

Congratulations to Bob Simard on his retirement after 41 years of service. Bob was an Engineer IV in Traffic Engineering.

Congratulations to Mary Jo Oie on her retirement after 30 years of service. Mary Jo was the Communication Division Manager.

Congratulations to Claude Oie on his retirement after 44 years of service. Claude was Construction Engineer.

Congratulations to Steve Bartos on his retirement after 44 years of service. Steve was Assistant Construction Engineer.

Congratulations to Chuck Griggs on his retirement after 38 years of service. Chuck was a Printing Technician II in Communication.

Congratulations to Ed Hayak on his retirement after 36 years of service. Ed was a Hwy. Designer II in Roadway Design.

Congratulations to Helen Bernadt on her graduation from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor's degree in Education & Human Sciences. Helen is the daughter of Dean DeButts. Dean is a Hwy. Materials Designer in Materials & Research.

Traffic Engineering-Hwy. Safety-Accident Records welcomes Diane Leikam. Diane started on March 21 as an Office Clerk I.

Congratulations to Kaitlynn Simon for winning the D-1 State Volleyball Championship. Kaitlynn is a sophomore at Johnson Brock Schools. She is the daughter of Vicki Simon, Staff Assistant at District 1 in Lincoln.

Congratulations to Ted Swendener on his retirement after 14 years of service. Ted was an Auto/Diesel Mechanic at District 6 in Mullen.

NDOR Events Calendar

— May —

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles

National Bicycle Safety Awareness Month

National Bike-to-Work Month

www.bikeleague.org/bikemonth

3 New Employee Orientation Program

NDOR Auditorium

Contact Denise Sears @ 402-479-3656

6 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.

10:00 a.m., NDOR Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436

11 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

11 - 25 Open Enrollment

13 Hwy. Commission Meeting

8:30 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

19 Letting

1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528

20 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.

9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436

5/23 - 6/5 National "Click It or Ticket" Mobilization

25 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

30 State Holiday – Memorial Day

— June —

National Safety Month

<http://www.nsc.org/Pages/JuneisNationalSafetyMonth.aspx>

4 National Trails Day

<http://www.nationaltrailsday.org/>

3-12 Nebraska Wildflower Week

<http://arboretum.unl.edu/wildflower-week>

8 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

8 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank

NDOR Central Headquarters

Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

17 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.

9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436

22 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

23 Letting

1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528

24 Hwy. Commission Mtg./Dist. 5 Program Hearing

8:30 a.m., Gering Civic Center, 1050 M St., Gering, NE

Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov.